

San Joaquin River Management Program Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Rooms H&I in the Stanislaus Building
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, California

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions – Paula J. Landis, Chair
- 9:15 a.m. San Joaquin River Conceptual Restoration Plan – Carolyn Yale, EPA and Chris White, CCID
- 9:45 a.m. Real Time Data and Forecasting Project - Ted Swift, Ph.D., DWR
- 10:30 a.m. SJR Water Quality Action Implementation Group - Paula J. Landis, DWR
- 11:00 a.m. Fish and Wildlife Service Draft Refuge BMP Report - John Beam, DFG
- 11:30 a.m. Other Business
- 12:00 a.m. Adjourn

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

DRAFT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, May 17, 2006
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Modesto, California

Welcome and Introductions

The San Joaquin River Management Program (SJRMP) Advisory Council met at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto, California. Paula J. Landis, Department of Water Resources (DWR), opened the meeting with announcements and introductions.

San Joaquin River Conceptual Restoration Plan

Carolyn Yale, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chris White of the San Joaquin River Management Coalition (RMC) presented the final San Joaquin River Conceptual Restoration Plan Phase 2. The funding to complete phases 1 and 2 of the Restoration Plan was provided by the EPA. White gave a brief background on how and why the RMC was formed and what upcoming challenges the group is planning. The Plan focused on “new water” for restoration, use of non-flow actions, and maximum beneficial use of water.

The study area was divided into 5 different reaches: Reach 1 is from the Friant Dam down to Gravelly Ford; Reach 2 is from Gravelly Ford down to the Mendota Dam; Reach 3 is from the Mendota Dam down to the Sack Dam; Reach 4 is from the Sack Dam down to the confluence with the Eastside Bypass; and Reach 5 is from the Bypass to the confluence with the Merced River. In addition, Reach 5 includes Grasslands Water District and State and federal wildlife refuges to the west of the San Joaquin River. Each reach was assessed in Phase 1 to determine the existing conditions, potential desired conditions, and constraints. These were discussed briefly for each reach.

Phase 2 developed water supply estimates for proposed restoration actions for each reach. Water requirements for aquatic restoration were framed by ‘bookends’ for native and Salmonid fish. Phase 2 analysis indicate water requirements of 447,000 AF for native fish and 533,000 AF for Salmonid during dry years, and 774,000 AF and 1,717,000 AF respectively in wet years. Four water supply scenarios were evaluated: existing system and operational criteria; existing system plus recapture at Mendota Pool; increase reservoir storage to 2 million acre-feet; and increase reservoir storage plus recapture at Mendota Pool. The recapture operation for the Mendota Pool was discussed in detail and was

illustrated by a system schematic that showed the physical structures along the San Joaquin. The schematic illustrated how water would move through the San Joaquin River to the Delta, then through the CA Aqueduct to the Cross Valley Canal where it would flow east to Friant-Kern Canal service area and make up for the reduced diversions due to restoration. Under this plan, water of lesser quality from the Delta would replace the better quality water of the San Joaquin River which could affect the groundwater and irrigated crops in the region.

The Phase 2 report identified thirteen restoration projects, active or proposed, that are compatible with the RMC goals.

The next step for the RMC is to share their studies and assist with the planning for restoration of the San Joaquin River. Funding is currently being requested from the EPA for the RMC to participate in future planning work.

Lowell Ploss raised a concern that the Report did not assess downstream or third party impacts to raising the river flow and the temperature that is needed by salmon to keep them alive. According to Ploss these issues still need to be worked out before restoration can be accomplished.

Real-time Data and Forecasting Project

Ted Swift, DWR, gave an overview of the Real-time Data and Forecasting Project (RTDF) in the Delta. The Project goal is to provide data and information to source water and system managers, municipal treatment plant operators, researchers, and stakeholders to optimize and balance resource use, promote science-based decision making, and economic efficiency. The purpose for the water quality data that is collected is to monitor regulatory compliance, for research, to determine baseline or historical record source water protection, determine sources and loads, and to get this information to the water users. The RTDF Project is mainly funded by the State Water Project contractors. The RTDF provides an early-warning system for Source Water Managers, State and Federal Project Operators, and Treatment Plant Operators. The forecasting is done using the Department's DSM2 model.

There are currently three boundary stations established; the Sacramento River at Hood, San Joaquin River near Vernalis, and H.O. Banks Pumping plant. The stations all measure DOC, TOC, and salinity (EC) and the Vernalis and Banks Stations measure Bromide, Chloride, Nitrate, and Sulfate. Swift discussed the equipment used to measure these constituents and how the data is retrieved. Comparisons between the model forecasts and observed grab samples indicate that the DSM2 is modeling the water quality changes well. Swift shared some interesting slides that displayed correlations between precipitation, flow and water quality at some of the stations.

Weekly report and forecasting results were displayed in the presentation to summarize how the data is presented. Weekly forecasts are available via an email list serve by request. If interested please contact Swift at twswift@water.ca.gov.

Future work includes a model for the Aqueduct water quality all the way to Southern California. Eventually all the forecasting data will be available on the Department's web site for public access. Ploss and Charlie Kratzer commented that this work would be beneficial to the SJR Water Quality Group and any future planning to be able to fingerprint the water quality at Vernalis.

SJR Water Quality Action Implementation Group

Landis gave an update for the SJR Water Quality Group now called the SJR Water Quality Action Implementation Group. The Group information is being hosted on the SJRMP web site at http://www.sjrmp.ca.gov/activities/sjd_wqaig/index.cfm. The web site will host data and information relating to the Group.

Fish and Wildlife Service Draft Refuge BMP Report

John Beam provided some information on the Wildlife Refuge Best Management Plan report. The Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service has the Report but it is currently under review. The Bureau has not been able to complete their review since their work has been redirected to the CVPIA Project. The document is comprised of ideas the wetland managers have developed that could improve the water quality in the Refuges. There are no real data sets so a lot needs to be done to develop discharge and water quality estimates. There may be a project to set up a study for six wetlands in the Refuge that will be managed during late April and early May as a pilot study to determine if there is a way to measure inflow, outflow and water quality. The project is comprised of CALFED funding and DWR Ag Drainage Prop 50 funding. Grasslands is also a partner at a private duck club that will be included in the pilot project.

Other Business

Lowell Ploss, San Joaquin River Group Authority, informed SJRMP that the Ecosystem Restoration Program under the Calfed Bay-Delta program was given to the California Department of Fish and Game. This included grants for water quality under this Program. Ploss requested that these grants remain with the California Department of Water Resources since it is not the expertise of DFG and fits better with the mission and expertise of DWR. It was requested that Landis inform her superiors of this request. Landis agreed to report back to her supervisor regarding this request.

The Next Advisory Council Meeting: is scheduled on Thursday, August 17, 2006 at 9:00 am at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, Room HI.

**ATTENDEES AT
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
May 17, 2006**

No.	Name	Company	Phone	Email
1	John	Beam	California Department Fish & Game	jbeam@dfg.ca.gov
2	Tom	Boardman	San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority	hydrobro@ix.netcom.com
3	Allison	Boucher	Friends of the Tuolumne Inc.	boucher.a@comcast.net
4	Eric	Gillies	State Lands Commission	gilliee@slc.ca.gov
5	Michael	Hagman	Friant Water User Authority	mhagman@friantwater.org
6	Karna	Harrigfeld	Herum Crabtree Brown	kharrigfeld@herumcrabtree.com
7	Fred	Jurick	California Department of Fish and Game	fjurick@dfg.ca.gov
8	Charlie	Kratzer	USGS	ckratzer@usgs.gov
9	Paula	Landis	DWR, San Joaquin District	plandis@water.ca.gov
10	Raunna	Lee	DFG, La Grange	rlee@dfg.ca.gov
11	Lee	Mao	Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region	lmao@mp.usbr.gov
12	Caroline	Mittton	Yokuts Group of the Sierra Club	cmitt@earthlink.net
13	Richard	Morat	US Fish & Wildlife Services	Richard_Morat@fws.gov
14	Amanda	Peisch	DWR, San Joaquin District	apeisch@water.ca.gov
15	Lowell	Ploss	San Joaquin River Group Authority	lowellploss@aol.com
16	Ted	Swift	Municiple Water Quality Investigations, DWR	tswift@water.ca.gov
17	Ernie	Taylor	DWR, San Joaquin District	etaylor@water.ca.gov
18	Chris	White	Central California Irrigation District	ccidwhite@sbcglobal.net
19	J.D.	Wikert	US Fish and Wildlife Services-AFRP	john_wikert@fws.gov
20	Carolyn	Yale, Ph.D.	Environmental Protection Agency, WTR-3	yale.carolyn@epa.gov